

~~SECRET~~

Recommendations and Problems
Monthly Reports for October 1957

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

EUROPE-ASIA COMPILATION BRANCH

In view of the recent arrangements made with Mr. E. Percy concerning closer cooperation between the Office of the Geographer and D/GC, it is suggested that a system be adopted as standard procedure whereby all NIS base maps be reviewed by the Office of the Geographer to establish and/or reflect State Department policy regarding international boundaries.

25X1A9a

Suggest [REDACTED] be alerted that the next "DRUPA" international fair for printing and reproduction will be held in Dusseldorf, 3-16 May 1958.

FAR EAST - WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRANCH

This Branch has been concerned, for some time, over the lack of capability to produce maps which would cover certain intelligence gaps which are known to exist in our geographic areas of responsibility. The administrative map of east China, which would round out the series of such maps on China and which has been on our books since March 1955, is an example. It is the opinion of this Branch that we should keep this kind of information up to date and in map form so that it can be used by the intelligence community as a whole. The series was started in 1948 or 1949 and has not yet been completed; the maps that have been done are now out of date as no revision has been done on them. It is felt that such maps should be revised and published whenever changes would seem to warrant it. The small number of persons available to do the work as compared with the number of requests placed upon us has made it almost impossible to do anything toward the filling of these intelligence gaps. It was only with a good deal of perseverance and fending off of other requests that we were able to bring the map of Sinkiang to its present state of completion; when finally published, this map will represent a useful contribution to the intelligence on this area.

In casting about for some suggestion as to what might be done within our present limited strength, it seemed obvious that one of the things that might bear investigation was the matter of maps that we do that might better be not done. Looking back over our past few years it seems that the Petroleum Concessions maps done for Supplement V of the NIS are of doubtful value as far as can be determined from our point of view. The mapping of petroliferous areas, oilfields, pipelines, terminals, processing facilities seem to be valid. But the mapping of petroleum concession outlines at the scales at which we work seems to us to be of minor value, especially as they change rather frequently in many areas and do not really show the location of petroleum deposits; they show the areas in which prospectors feel that there may be oil and in which they are willing to gamble. Concessions are applied for, granted, withdrawn and rejected so that it is seldom that a current picture can be achieved and it does take a good deal of time to transfer this kind of information to the base map that will show them effectively. It is felt that the time spent in this activity could be spent to better advantage on some of the other maps which we do. It is also felt that this sort of information is at least

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

SPECIAL SUPPORT BRANCH

A change in format of the OCI Daily Digest is being tested to determine if it can be enlarged. This includes not only an increase in text material but also in graphic illustrations. So far, OCI Graphics Division has been supplying all the illustrations (except for 1 map of Eurasia), mostly by borrowing originals and/or negatives from us.

If the preliminary tests are satisfactory, and if it is to continue to be OCI Graphics province to supply the illustrations, some way must be found of either (1) supplying them with duplicate separation plates of all our maps, or (2) providing them with access to our map files after close-of-business hours.

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

PROCESSING BRANCH

This is the second month for which the Cataloging Section has been without clerical assistance. Typing and clerical duties relating to cataloging continue to be absorbed by catalogers.

PHOTO INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

None reported

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

The Far East Branch once again reports that the problem of over-riding priorities accorded to preparation of NIS maps and cartographic support for other routine reports at the expense of really significant geographic intelligence contributions in map form continues to be a vexing one. It is recommended that appropriate officials of the Geographic Area and ORR explore this problem as objectively as possible with OBI and, if necessary, the DD/I. Perhaps a separate staff, to handle nothing but NIS cartographic work would provide a solution.

The Near East/Africa Branch reports again that maps that accompany documents are being separated from the text. This is particularly ~~XXXX~~ difficult in working with documents coming through the GA's.

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF

The major problem facing the Editing and Review Staff at present is deciding upon the most efficient use of the curtailed staff. The best solution seems to be increased reliance upon analysts for proofing.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

COORDINATION STAFF

Lack of personnel continues to be a problem, but steps are being taken to fill the two permanent slots that will give the Staff its full complement. While a backlog of work is developing, it is anticipated that it will be absorbed by the end of the fiscal year if the additional coordinators are obtained within the next several months.

EUROPE BRANCH

Our continued failure to get as good service out of OTR language training as we are led to expect is highlighted by [REDACTED] experience 25X1A9a of this month. She reports as follows:

An announcement of a Polish Seminar appeared in the Office of Training Bulletin. This analyst applied for admission to this course and submitted all necessary applications forms to the OTR. No work was received on the action of this request and when an inquiry was made re the course, the Office of Training could offer no definite information on the course but offered to find out about it. After several telephone calls, Training reports that the course would begin on 24 October. When this analyst arrived at the office where the class was to be held, she discovered that the people in charge were completely ignorant about the course and upon further investigation, it was discovered that one individual of the crowd that is responsible for the administration of these courses apparently cancelled the course without notifying anyone directly concerned with the course. Since the above fiasco is only a variation of many similar ones that have occurred in the past, it is suggested that another attempt be made to acquire a tape recorder for this office so that the analysts can improve their language proficiency by self ~~study~~ study.

~~SECRET~~